



# **Stream and Wetland Systems Protection Policy**

*San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board*

# Today's Presentation

- Background and Need
- Policy Scope
- Stakeholder Outreach



# Degradation



Thompson Creek



Arroyo Las Positas

# Stream and Wetland System Functions

- Pollutant filtration
- Sediment transport and storage
- Streambank stabilization
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Flood water storage
- Groundwater recharge



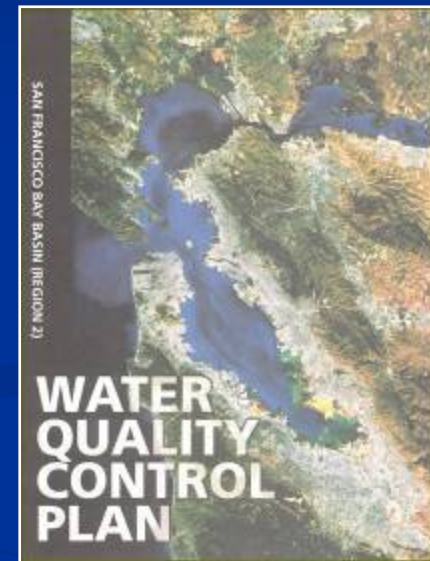
Berryessa Creek



Napa River

# Proposed Basin Plan Amendment

- Beneficial Uses
- Water Quality Objectives
- Implementation Plan





# Beneficial Use

## Flood Water Storage / Flood Peak Attenuation

Waterbodies that receive and store natural surface drainage and reduce the flood peak downstream



Napa River

# Beneficial Use

## Water Quality Enhancement

Waterbodies that support natural enhancement of water quality including:

- filtration of water pollutants
- streambank stabilization
- maintenance of channel integrity
- temperature moderation
- erosion control
- sediment storage



Sonoma Creek



Suisun Creek

# Water Quality Objectives

- Watershed Hydrology
- Stream Channel Equilibrium
- Floodplain Connectivity
- Riparian Vegetation
- Wetland Structure



Guadalupe Creek



# Implementation

## Policy Application

Link to existing permits and programs:

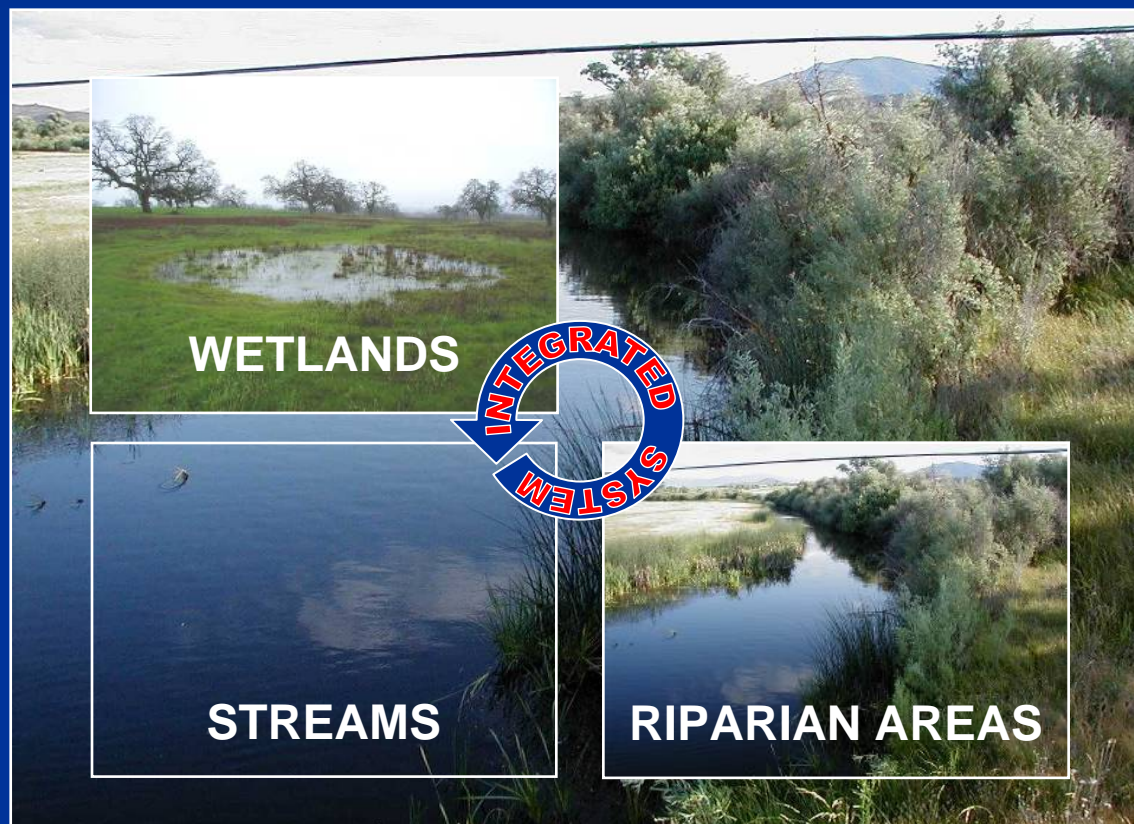
- WDRs
- 401 certifications
- THP reviews
- CEQA reviews
- WDR waivers
- NPDES permits
- TMDL implementation
- Grants

Improve regulation of the following activities:

- In-channel activities
- Wetland disturbance
- Riparian area disturbance
- Floodplain management
- Stormwater and runoff management

# Implementation

- Provide guidance (definitions and identification methodologies) on policy application



Shasta River

# Implementation

## Performance Criteria and Permit Conditions

- Provide flexibility for different watershed conditions
- Link to permit conditions to assess attainment of water quality standards



Canopy Cover



Bank Stabilization



# Implementation

## Non-Regulatory

- Support watershed planning
- Encourages local governments to adopt sustainable development principles
- Give higher grant priority to local governments that adopt:
  - Ahwahnee Water Principles
  - Low-impact development and smart growth policies
  - Stream protection ordinances with riparian buffers

# Stakeholder Outreach

- Public workshops and comments

## Next Steps

- Complete Draft Policy Language and Staff Report  
*(Summer '07 to Fall '07)*
- Public Review and Comment Period  
*(Fall '07 to Winter '07)*
- Water Board Testimony and Adoption Hearings  
*(Spring '08 to Finish)*

